

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

January 2019 Volume 49 Number 1



Happy New Year

Bob Robbins, K8RGI, Ham Of the Year

From The Prez

Ham of the Year

Bob Robbins, K8RGI, was selected Ham of the Year and presented the award at his QTH instead of at the customary Christmas party ceremony. Bob's intense involvement in Field Day, his help with preparing donated equipment for market and overall enthusiastic participation in CARS activities made him the obvious choice for the 2018 HOTY award. At Field Day Bob setup and equipped two stations, prepared and delivered the Educational Activity and requested his Independence councilman visit our site. The councilman presented the club with a beautifully crafted written proclamation. Bob also made numerous contributions as a Field Day Committee member.

Special Service Award

Bob Check, W8GC, was chosen for a Special Service Award because of the immense amount of time and effort he put into procuring, servicing, repairing and marketing the donated equipment CARS has received. This massive contribution increased the club treasury significantly. Bob contributes more than hard work. He brings with him decades of knowledge and experience in electronic equipment repair. Bob's business acumen and know-how made possible the profitable sale of the equipment.

Nonagenarian

A one of a kind award was given to Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, upon reaching his ninetieth birthday on November 27th. Ed's numerous contributions over the years have been greatly appreciated by the CARS membership. His friendship has been invaluable. Ed recently went through the traumatic experience of a house fire. Rather than immediately flee, Ed's spunky nature had him trying to put out the fire. His delayed evacuation resulted in severe burns to his feet. Ed is recovering in a rehab center and planning a move to an apartment.

73, Toby, WT8O



Bob, K8RGI, happily accepts his Ham of the Year plaque at his home QTH. [Above]

Ed, WB8ROK, happily receives his CARS award commemorating his ninetieth birthday [Right]



Peep from the Veep Mark, WJ8WM

When I was young, I would listen to the shortwave radio with my father. We heard all kinds of programs in many different languages. I was 7, 8, or 9. One of the languages sounded like beeps. Dad explained it was Morse Code.

He said he didn't understand it but it has been used for a long-time way before the telephone! He said he had a friend who was a ham radio operator and used and understood it. He One Saturday we went to his house.

He lived on Chestnut Rd. in Seven Hills near the top of the street on the North side of the street. I don't remember his name or call but maybe one of you did know him. I remember his station though. It was in a corner of the family room.

He had taken a drop front desk and built all the equipment into a panel. The station was beautiful not a wire was showing except for the key, microphone, and headphones. His logbook was the only other item on the desk. A large cork board hung on the wall next to the desk covered in QSL cards.

He showed us his beam antenna on a tower in the backyard and made few contacts with CW to show us how it was done. I was fascinated. He said he could communicate with people all over the world.

This was my first experience with ham radio.

Welcome New Members

Dayne Wade, KE8KYG

Brian Schmiedlin, KE8KYH

Robert McCarthy, KE8KYI

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

November 13th 2018 Business Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 13th day of the month at the Busch Community room. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The October 9th 2018 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the November 2018 *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance. Bob also reminded the group that you can pay your dues early.

You may also renew your ARRL dues through CARS. See Bob, W8GC, for details. The club receives a portion on dues renewals as well as new members.

Bob reminded the group that CARS is now associated with Amazon Smile as a charitable organization. Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price back to the club with each purchase. There is a link on the CARS web page for further explanation.

The Club asks that you keep your information current. You can do it from the web site. We are not "Mind Readers". If you have an information change, please let us know.

Kelly Dobeck, KD8YVR, attended the meeting with her Father Mike, K8CKC. Kelly is the Newest Meteorologist at Channel 19 as well as a CARS Scholarship winner.

The CARS Christmas party is December 14th at 6pm. The location is the Brew Garden, 18590 Bagley Road in Middleburg Heights. Details and flyer are on the website. You are able to order off the menu this year.

Toby, WT8O, reminded the club that dinner meetings are optional. You can still attend the meeting without buying dinner. Toby also asked for W.O. contributions being articles and or pictures. If you also have items for sale, submit them to Toby as well.

Toby mentioned the Field Day results. The Club was 1st in Ohio (7,586 points) and 4th overall in their category. Toby is looking for someone to take over the pop refreshments for the meetings.

The next VE session will be January 13th, 2019 at 9 AM in the old Elmwood Recreation Center adjacent to Elmwood Pond in Elmwood Park. There were (2) New Technicians and (1) Extra class upgrade at the last VE on session November 11th.

Toby would like to see more club participation with Public service.

There was no Old or New business to discuss.

Toby thanked the Refreshment Committee for all their work.



Kelly Dobeck, KD8YVR

Skywarn recognition day is December 1, 2018 at the Cleveland office of the National Weather Service. The office is on West Hanger Drive off of Brookpark road. The event runs from 8am until dark.

George, K8KR, won the 50/50 raffle.

The next CARS license class will be Thursday, February 28th, 2019. The location is Seven Hills City Hall. Classes run each Thursday at 6:30 PM. The classes will run through April 11th with the VE test session that evening.

There were 34 members and guests in attendance this evening.

The program tonight was on "LED Lighting" presented by Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.



Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, enlightens the group with his in-depth presentation on LED lighting.



The Net Controllers received Amazon gift cards for their service.

January Net Shed

JAN	2	KD8ACO
JAN	9	WT8O
JAN	16	AC8NW
JAN	23	KD8OUE
JAN	30	N8OWS

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PI 110.9)

CARS 2018 Christmas Party

Andy, KD8SCV

The evening of December 14th saw CARS members and guests, 38 in all, gather to share Holiday celebrations, food, and friendship at the Brew Garden in Middleburg Heights. Mark Studer, KC8FQV, arrived adorned with his colorful strings of festive Christmas lights, which always adds to the mood of the season, thank you Mark!

Besides serving as informal emcee, club president Toby Kolman, WT8O, presented awards to several members for their contributions to the club in 2018 which are detailed elsewhere in this issue of the WO. Five guests won Amazon gift cards and one lucky winner won \$75 in the 50/50 raffle.

I thank my fellow Christmas Party committee members Arp Viiberg, K8ARP, and Mark Moro, WJ8WM, for their help in planning the party. With this year's party, members and guests could order off the menu, just like our club dinner meetings and members seemed to prefer this approach. So, it could set the pattern for future Christmas parties. Let us know what you think.

Thanks to all who attended and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all CARS members and their families!



No one could call Mark, KC8FQV, a wallflower.

January Birthdays

Jane Reed, KSJGR	1/11
Gary Schmid, WASGCR	1/11/47
Jody Shankland, KESJVA	1/14/70
Matt Webb, WSEBB	1/14/84
Fred Doob, K8PP	1/15
Andrew Kahn, WASLIV	1/17/89
Steve Jones, N8SRJ	1/23/66
Mike Toth, K8SRKF	1/27/50
Carl Beduhm, KSAV	1/30/38
Tony Thomas, KC8TJF	1/31/56
Dayne Wade, KESKYG	1/31/77

Net Controllers Toby, WT8O

Two of our long time net controllers will be retiring. Gary, NI8Z, and George, K8KR, ran their last CARS nets as 2018 came to a close. Both gents were Net Control Stations for many years. They did an admirable job year in and year out. Neither of these guys ever missed a net. In the rare event they had a schedule conflict; they always made sure their net was covered by trading spots with another net controller. A hearty thank you goes out to both, for a job well done and most appreciated.

Gary was a NCS when I first checked into a CARS net in 2002. He always added his upbeat style to the nets he ran. Gary started his nets with many items of interest concerning the amateur radio world. George signed on as a net controller not long after that. As a trendsetter, he upped the Trivia game by researching interesting ham radio subjects and provided more difficult questions that not only made us put our thinking caps on, but increased our knowledge of the hobby. He also developed "George's Rules" and would send his longtime pal, Luca Brasi, to any offenders QTH.

Now we need to add new Net Control Stations to the group. It is not that difficult to be a net controller. For those check into the nets regularly, they know the drill. They also should notice each net controller has his own style. Running the net is fun and it helps develop operating skills. What makes stepping up to a net controller in CARS low stress is the group is helpful and considerate with a new person. Now is the time become a Net Control Station.

Dues Notice Bob, W8GC

Your 2019 CARS dues are payable on or before January 31, 2018. If you have already paid THANK YOU.

Dues can be paid in 3 ways:

Online by sending the funds via PayPal to w8gc@2cars.org PLEASE USE PERSONAL OPTION.

You can also mail a check to:

CARS
7395 Brecksville Rd.
Independence, OH 44131

Pay in person at any CARS meeting.

Dues are \$26.00 per year for regular membership. Each additional family member is \$16.00. If you are 60 yrs. or older, your dues are only \$18.00 per year.

CARS will offer assistance to anyone having a hardship.

Please let me know if you have a hardship or know a member who needs help.

VE Session

The CARS November VE session brought three new hams into the Amateur Radio Service. Dayne Wade, KE8KYG; Brian Schmiedlin, KE8KYH, and Robert McCarthy, KE8KYI, passed their Technician exams becoming licensed amateurs. Robert also took the General exam and passed. We welcome Dayne, Brian and Robert into the ham radio hobby and CARS. Linas Vaitkus, KE8KOJ; Roy Baldner, KE8KOL; and Deniz Dosluoglu, KD2QNB, all upgraded to General. Bruce Bream, KF8AE, passed the Amateur Extra exam.

Hats off to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of Gary, NI8Z; Dave, NF8O; Larry, N8OWS; George, K8KR; Darren, K8DMT; Joel, K8SHB, and Bill Collins, W8BBL.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, January 13th, at 9:00 AM at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net As always, walk-ins are welcome.

Member Profile Bob Check, W8GC

How did you become interested in ham radio? My Grandfather was an SWL.

What made you decide to take the test? I wanted to talk on the radio not just listen.

When did you get your license(s)? 1954.

What are your base station radios and antennas? Yaesu FTdx9000MP, OM power OM4000hf amplifier several accessories – antennas: SteppIR Monster 3 full sized elements on 40 & 30, 4 elements on 20 through 10 and 6 elements on 6 meters. This antenna is on a 75ft remote crank up tower. I have an 80 meter 4 square and on 160 meters a big L, I have 130 radials tied together in the middle of my antennas.

What is your “go to” base station HF radio? Yaesu FTdx9000MP.

What is your mobile set up? None.

What are your favorite on air activities? Only DX, also now on FT8 because of very bad QRN at my house.

Why did you join CARS? Steve, N8IS, my son in law, was a member and asked me to join. Seemed like a good club and the rest is history, past President and currant Treasurer.

What would you like to see CARS do to improve? Get some fund raisers going, not just spend money.

Anything else you would like to say? I wish all a Happy and prosperous 2019!

Dive Into a Contest

Toby, WT80

While participating in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, a glaring fact jumped out at me. Since part of the exchange was a serial number, the number of contacts an operator had made so far, there was a humongous variance. Some operators were in the thousands, some were in the teens. Those with high numbers were usually sitting on a frequency calling CQ and racking up the contacts, those with low numbers were trying to contact those calling CQ; or using the “search and pounce” method as it’s called.

Both of the previously mentioned methods are essential. If everyone held a frequency and called CQ, they would never have contact one if it weren’t for the search and pouncers. Conversely, if no one held a frequency the searchers would have no one to pounce on. It does take two to tango.

So if you never have tried your luck in a contest, don’t sit on the sidelines, dive in. Or wade in slowly if that is more comfortable for you. You can listen to someone who is making contacts holding a “freak.” By listening you can make sure of the information you will need to convey which is called the exchange. You may have to call numerous times to break through a pile up. Sometimes your signal never gets through and you need to move to another contest calling CQ. When you do get through, I guarantee you will feel a real jolt of excitement.

Attention FT8 Users

The current General Availability (GA) release is *WSJT-X 2.0.0*

The FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is not backward compatible with older program versions. The new protocols became the world-wide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to *WSJT-X 2.0* by January 1, 2019. After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air.

Go to <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html> to download the new version.

[The above information was provided by Bob, W8GC, from the WSJT website.]

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT80
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Marketplace

Cushcraft R-8 new cost \$539. Has all parts & tilt base. Asking **\$150.00**

Call or email Bob, W8GC. 216-524-1750 bob@2cls.com

Radiosport

Contests

Jan 5 1800-2359 **ARRL Kids Day** 3.5-14, 18, 21, 24, 28 144 repeaters Ph www.arrl.org/kids-day

Exchange: Name, age, QTH, favorite color

Jan 5 1800-Jan 6 2359 **ARRL RTTY Roundup** 3.5-28 Dig www.arrl.rtty-roundup

Exchange: RST, SP (or serial, if DX)

Jan 12 1800-Jan 13 0559 **North American QSO Party, CW** 1.8-28 CW www.ncjweb.com

Exchange: Name, SPC (State, Province)

Jan 19 1800-Jan 20 0559 **North American QSO Party, SSB** 1.8-28 PH www.ncjweb.com

Exchange: Name, SPC (State, Province)

Jan 19 1900-Jan 21 0359 **ARRL January VHF Contest** 50 and up CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/january-vhf

Exchange: 4-char grid square

Jan 26 1900-Jan 27 1900 **Winter Field Day** All, no WARC CW Ph Dig www.winterfieldday.com

Exchange: Category, ARRL Section (or "DX")

Special Events Stations

Jan 2-Jan 31 0000-2359 **K3Y** Various Locations **13th Annual Straight Key CW Event** 21.050 14.050 7.055 3.550 www.skccgroup.com/k3y

Jan 26 1200-2359 **WA4TRS** Fairview, NC **See the Light** 14.240 7.074 7.072 7.070 www.wa4trs.org

Jan 26-Jan 28 1700-0100 **AG6AU** Placerville, CA **Discovery of Gold in California, 171th Anniversary Special Event Station** 14.248 7.248 www.edcarc.net

Sampling from QST January 2019 Pg. 91 and 97, see QST for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

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CARS 2019 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

KD8SCV **, WJ8WM, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, N8BBB food

50/50

WT8O

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** KE8IHP

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

KD8SCV ** pop, AI8Y ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2019 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Larry Shimerka, N8OWS 216-647-2484

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723

even year executive board 2 year term

K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term

KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC



December 15, 2018



Sign up now for CARS 2019 Winter Ham Radio classes, get your Technician, General or Extra class license!

**Thursday evenings starting February 28, 2019
and ending April 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm**

***April 11th will be a special VE Test session for all license classes,
ARRL fee for this VE test is \$15.00***

**To register please follow the link at www.2cars.org and complete
the on-line application or call 216-932-8005 Dave, KD8ACO**

***Classes will be held at the Seven Hills City Hall, 7325 Summit View Dr
Seven Hills, OH 44131 in room "C" at 6:30 pm every Thursday.
The entrance is at the East end on the South side of building***

**class fees: Technician \$25.00, all who pass get a free CARS membership for
2019, General and Extra \$20.00 non members or Extra is \$15.00 CARS
members, General class ONLY is FREE to CARS members**

All class materials are provided